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Filed : January 28, 2000

services related to order fulfillment for the transaction and payment processing for the transaction;

generating a second message at another member of the trading network in a format compatible with a clearinghouse format; and

transmitting the second message through a web browser in the clearinghouse format wherein the steps of transmitting the first and second messages comprises transmitting a purchase order, a shipment proposal and an invoice.

Clean Copy of All Pending Claims

1. (Amended) A system for facilitating chemical supplier transactions comprising:

a network coupled to a plurality of member businesses;

a clearinghouse computer server associated with the member businesses and coupled to the member businesses through the network, the clearinghouse computer server receiving and forwarding electronic messages transmitted between at least two of the plurality of member businesses, the messages corresponding to communications in a chemical supplier transaction that relate to initiation of the chemical supplier transaction, and at least one of order fulfillment for the chemical supplier transaction and payment processing for the chemical supplier transaction;

a web browser associated with at least one trading member, wherein the trading member generates data and transmits the data through the web browser to the clearinghouse computer server in an original format compatible with a clearinghouse format;

an enterprise resource planning system configured to manage resources of at least another trading member, including product supply chain management; and

a translation server coupled to the enterprise resource planning system and to the clearinghouse computer server, the translation server converting data in a format of the enterprise resource planning system into a converted format of the clearinghouse computer server and forwarding the converted data to the clearinghouse computer server, wherein the converted data and the original format data correspond to communications

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between a first trading member and a second trading member that relate to initiation of a chemical supplier transaction, order fulfillment for the chemical supplier transaction, and payment processing for the chemical supplier transaction.

2. (Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein the messages corresponding to communications in the chemical supplier transaction relate to both order fulfillment for the transaction and payment processing for the transaction.

3. The system of Claim 1, wherein the messages include at least one of a purchase order, a purchaser order acknowledgment, and an invoice.

4. (Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein the clearinghouse computer server includes a supplier managed inventory component that monitors an inventory of the first trading member and in response to the inventory reaching a preset level, generating and transmitting a purchase order to the second trading member that was pre-designated as a supplier for the first trading member.

5. (Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the plurality of member businesses is a shipping company and the clearinghouse computer server includes a shipment tracking component that receives shipment tracking information from the shipping company and that provides the shipment tracking information to the member businesses.

6. (Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein the clearinghouse computer server includes a business intelligence component that aggregates data passing through the clearinghouse computer server and that mines the aggregated data for information requested by the member businesses.

7. (Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the plurality of member businesses is a shipping company and the clearinghouse computer server includes a logistics procurement component that receives shipment requests from trading members and forwards shipment proposals from the shipping members to the trading members.

8. (Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein the messages are extensible markup language (XML) messages.

9. (Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein the clearinghouse computer server includes a product catalog component that stores a product catalog of products available for sale from the member businesses and forward results of search requests of the catalog to the member businesses.

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10. (Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein the clearinghouse computer includes a regulatory reporting component that receives information relating to a required regulatory report from one of the member businesses, generates a regulatory report for the one member, and transmits the report to an appropriate regulatory authority.

11. A computer network comprising:

a plurality of trading members that buy and sell products through the network;  
at least one banking member for providing payment services to the plurality of trading members;  
a clearinghouse coupled to the trading members, the banking member, and the shipping member, communications between the trading members, banking members, and shipping members being routed through the clearinghouse, and the clearinghouse including software components for managing the services provided by the banking and shipping members to the trading members.

12. (Amended) The network of Claim 11, wherein at least a first one of the trading members includes:

an enterprise resource planning system configured to manage resources of the first trading member, including product supply chain management; and a translation server coupled to the enterprise resource planning system and to the clearinghouse, the translation server converting data in a format of the enterprise resource planning system into a format of the clearinghouse and forwarding the converted data to the clearinghouse; wherein

the converted data corresponds to communications between the first trading member and a second trading member that relates to initiation of a chemical supplier transaction, order fulfillment for the transaction, and payment processing for the transaction.

13. The network of Claim 12, wherein the format of the clearinghouse is extensible markup language (XML).

14. The network of Claim 11, wherein the payment service provided by the banking member includes purchasing account receivables from the trading members, the banking member calculating the amount to pay for the receivables based on an analysis of a payment history of transactions of trading members made through the clearinghouse.

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15. (Amended) The network of Claim 11, wherein the clearinghouse includes a supplier managed inventory component that monitors an inventory of a first one of the trading members and in response to the inventory reaching a preset level, generating and transmitting a purchase order to a second one of the trading members that was pre-designated as a supplier for the first member.

16. (Amended) The network of Claim 11, wherein the clearinghouse includes a shipment tracking component that receives shipment tracking information from the shipping member and that provides the shipment tracking information to the trading members.

17. (Amended) The network of Claim 11, wherein the clearinghouse includes a business intelligence component that aggregates data passing through the clearinghouse and that mines the aggregated data for information requested by the members.

18. (Amended) The network of Claim 11, wherein the clearinghouse includes a logistics procurement component that receives shipment requests from trading members and forwards shipment proposals from the shipping member to the trading members.

19. (Amended) The network of Claim 11, wherein the clearinghouse includes a product catalog component that stores a product catalog of products available for sale from the trading members and forwards results of search requests of the catalog to the trading members.

20. (Amended) A method for facilitating chemical supplier transactions between members in a trading network comprising:

receiving a purchase order for a product at a clearinghouse from a member of the network and directed to a second member of the network;

forwarding the purchase order from the clearinghouse to second trading member of the network;

receiving shipment proposals at the clearinghouse from a plurality of shipping members of the network to ship the product associated with the purchase order;

receiving an invoice at the clearinghouse from the second trading member for the product; and

forwarding the invoice to the first trading member and to a pre-designated banking member of the network first trading.

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21. The method of Claim 20, further comprising purchasing account receivables from the second trading member, a value of the account receivables based on an analysis of payment histories of transactions in the network.

22. The method of Claim 20, wherein the purchase order, the shipment proposals, and the invoice received at the clearinghouse are in extensible markup language (XML) format.

23. The method of Claim 20, further comprising monitoring an inventory of the first trading member and in response to the inventory reaching a preset level, generating and transmitting the purchase order to the second trading member.

24. The method of Claim 20, further including storing a product catalog of products available for sale and forwarding results of search results of the catalog to the members.

25. The method of Claim 20, further including aggregating data passing through the clearinghouse and mining the aggregated data for information requested by the members.

31. (Amended) A method for facilitating chemical supplier transactions between members in a trading network through the use of a clearinghouse, the method comprising the steps of:

generating a first message relating to a chemical supplier commerce transaction at an enterprise resource planning computer system associated with at least one member of the trading network, the first message corresponding to communications in a chemical supplier transaction;

converting the first message generated by the enterprise resource planning computer system into an extensible markup language (XML) message; and

transmitting the converted first message over the Internet to the clearinghouse that processes the converted first message and provides services related to order fulfillment for the transaction and payment processing for the transaction;

generating a second message at another member of the trading network in a format compatible with a clearinghouse format; and

transmitting the second message through a web browser in the clearinghouse format wherein the steps of transmitting the first and second messages comprises transmitting a purchase order, a shipment proposal and an invoice.

32. The method of Claim 31, wherein the services related to order fulfillment include receiving shipment proposals from shipping companies for the transaction.

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33. The method of Claim 31, wherein the services related to payment processing include the generation of a summary invoice of multiple transactions.

34. The method of Claim 31, wherein the services related to payment processing include the purchase of account receivables.

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